

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 8, 2004. Claims 1-7, 14-20 and 27-30 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 7, 14, 20, 27 and 29 are in independent form. Claims 8-13 and 21-26 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1-6, 14-19 and 27 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Initially, the title has been amended as kindly suggested by the Examiner, and a substitute specification is submitted herewith in both a marked and a clean version (and in which no new matter has been added), to address both the objection to the specification and the objection to the drawing, withdrawal of both of which objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-18 and 20-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,553,431 (Yamamoto), and Claims 6 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from that patent in view of U.S. Patent 6,167,449 (Arnold et al.).

Cancellation of Claims 8-13 and 21-26 renders the rejections of those claims moot.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a multi-function device that comprises a registration means for transmitting information on the function of the device to a directory server and registering the information in the directory server, a generation means for generating identification information corresponding to a third function realized by combining the first and second functions, the third function being provided as one service, and a control means for

registering the generated information in the directory sever by the registration means. The generating of the identification information on the third function enables the user to quickly search for a combination of the first and second functions available in the network system connected to the directory server and the plurality of devices.

Yamamoto relates to a management server for collecting device profile information. In the *Yamamoto* system, path profiles are transferred, as mentioned at col. 29, lines 34-44, but Applicant respectfully points out that in fact, this technique is completely different from, and in no way suggests, the approach taken in the device of Claim 1, in which a generation means generates identification information corresponding to a third function realized by combining first and second functions, the third function being provided as one service. Accordingly, it is believed to be clear that Claim 1 is allowable over *Yamamoto*. (Should the Examiner not agree, it is respectfully requested that in the next Action, the Examiner provide some explanation as to how the Examiner considers what is in *Yamamoto* to constitute the combining of first and second functions to produce a third that is provided as one service.)

Independent Claim 7 is directed to an arrangement comprising, among other features, generation means that generate information on a third service realized by combining first and second services. Applicant therefore considers that this claim is patentable over *Yamamoto* for the reasons already discussed in relation to Claim 1.

Each of the other independent claims is a method, program or memory-medium claim corresponding to one or the other of Claims 1 and 7, and is also deemed allowable by virtue of the reasons underlying the allowability of Claims 1 and 7, respectively.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything that, in

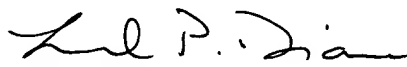
applicant's opinion, would supply what is missing from *Yamamoto* as prior art against the independent claims in this application. Accordingly, those claims are believed to be clearly allowable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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